

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PER-01 SS-15 MMS-01 SP-02 ABF-01

RSC-01 /038 W

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P R 251000Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1759

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RAABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0229

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XF, LE, APER, BEXP

SUBJ: ROLE AND STAFFING OF REGIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE, BEIRUT (RTDO)

REF: STATE 015785

1. RTDO ACTIVITIES IMPACT IN ALGERIA IS MARGINAL AT
BEST. BEIRUT IS A FIVE HOUR FLIGHT FROM ALGIERS AND
TRADE PROMOTION EVENTS HELD IN THAT AREA OF THE MIDDLE
EAST ARE OF LITTLE INTEREST HERE. ALGIERS WOULD THUS
RECOMMEND AGAINST EXTENDING RTDO TARGET COVERAGE TO
THE MAGHREB IN ANY MAJOR WAY.

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2. LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ALGIERS AND PARIS (A 2 HOUR FLIGHT) ARE EXCELLENT. MOST BUSINESSMEN CALLING AT THE EMBASSY HAVE OFFICES OR SUBSIDIARIES IN PARIS FROM WHICH THEY COVER NORTH AFRICA. THIS IS ONLY OCCASIONALLY TRUE OF BEIRUT.

3. POST FEELS THAT COMMERCE PROMOTION EVENT COVERAGE FOR NORTH AFRICA SHOULD BE SHARED BY PARIS AND BEIRUT. WHILE IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE USEFUL TO DEVELOP COORDINATION ON TRADE PROMOTION WITH RTDO BEIRUT, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER PARIS TRADE CENTER EXHIBITS OR OTHER U.S. EXHIBITS IN FRANCE ARE OF MORE INTEREST HERE AND MORE EASILY PROMOTED. LACK OF AVAILABLE OFFICER MANHOURS TO EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE THESE EVENTS HERE, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN A CONSTANT PROBLEM.

4. IN ANY EVENT, POST RECOMMENDS AGAINST PLACEMENT OF ANY REGIONAL TRADE PROMOTION OFFICER IN ALGIERS. PROBLEMS OF HOUSING AND OFFICE SPACE IN ALGIERS ARE CRITICAL AND LATERAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MIDDLE EAST ARE DIFFICULT.

5. THE SITUATION MIGHT BE REMEDIED BY OCCASIONAL TDY VISITS BY COMMERCE WASHINGTON PERSONNEL AND/OR OFFICERS FROM PARIS TRADE CENTER, AND RTDO BEIRUT. ALGIERS STANDS READY TO ASSIST TRADE PROMOTION EFFORTS, IN WHATEVER FORM DECIDED, WITHIN LIMITS POSED BY CURRENT EXTREMELY HEAVY COMMERCIAL WORKLOAD.
PARKER

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